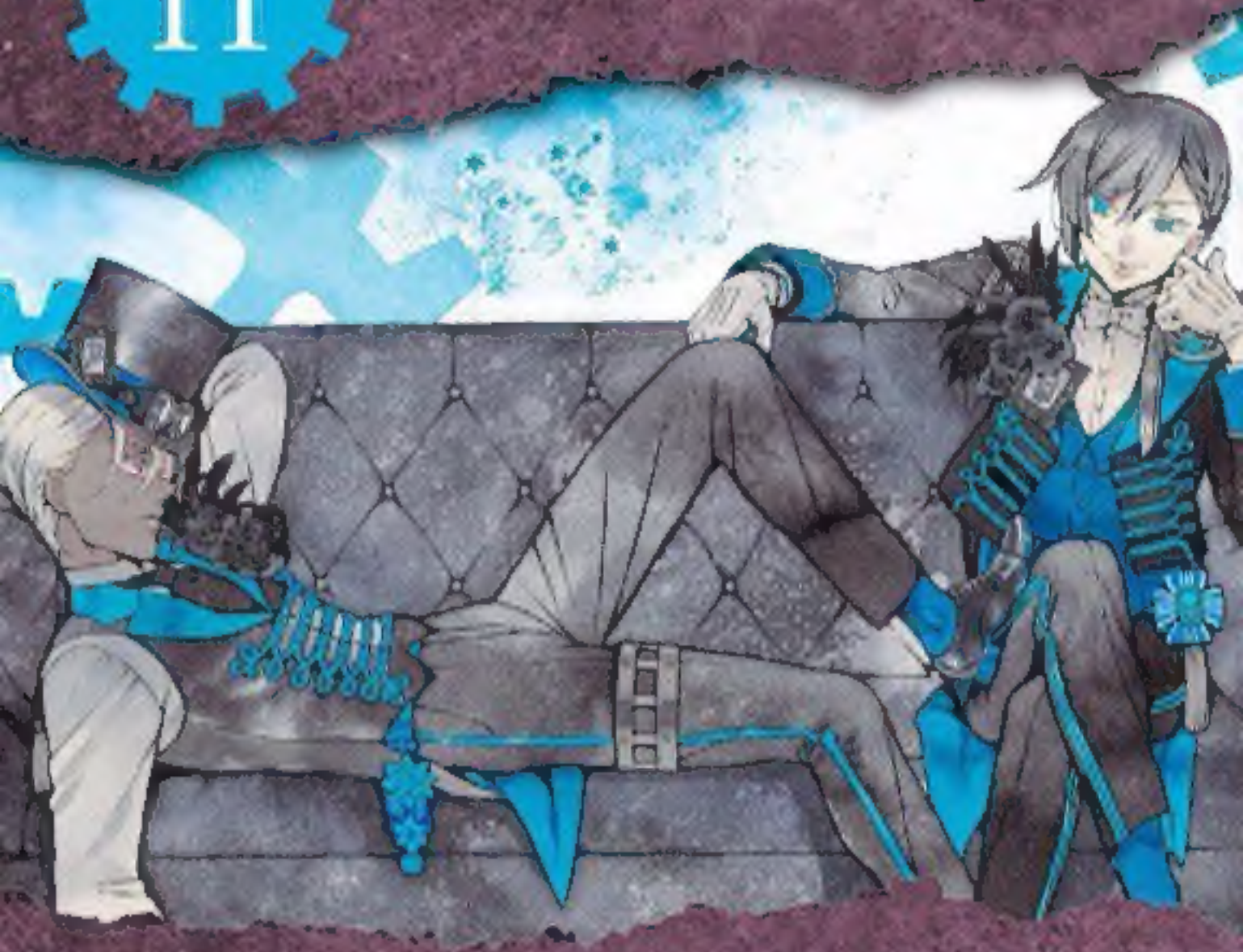
Chapter 11



JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

I'LL DO AS I PLEASE ...
...USE METHODS I CHOOSE...
...AND, NO MATTER WHAT YOU PEOPLE WANT...
...I WILL SAVE YOU, WITHOUT FAIL.

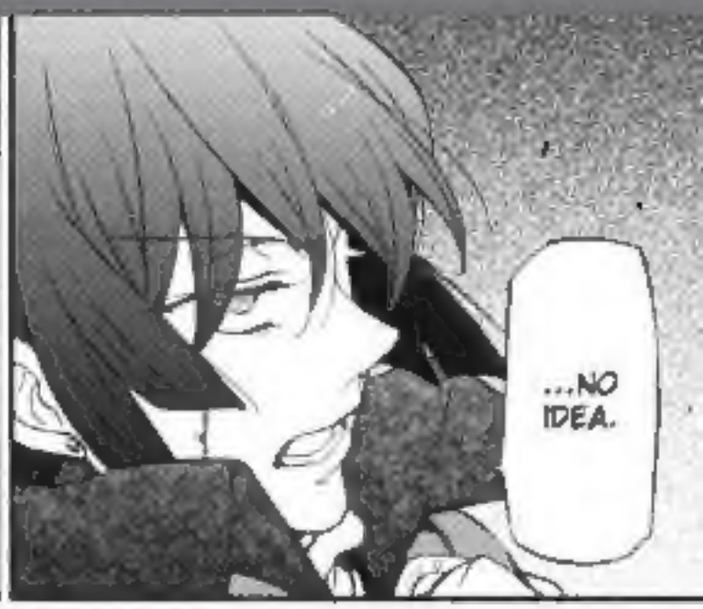
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS
Mémoire 11
...LET'S REMOVE OUR MASKS AND TALK.

AFTER THE REVEL...

ALL TOO EASILY,
MEMORIES OF THE BEGINNING SUMMON
MEMORIES OF THE END.

...
UIS
NA!!

...!
JUST MULL IT OVER ON YOUR OWN.


...NO IDEA.

...YOUUUUUU♡
FOUNDDDDD...

!?

...WAUGH! DOMINIQUE !!
JUST LOOK AT YOU!! WHAT ON EARTH!?
HM? WHAT'S ALL THIS?
NEVER MIND ME, JUST... HURRY!!
!? MA... MARQUIS MACHINA!!
HURRY AND STOP MY SISTER!! PLEASE!!

WHA ...!?
AAAAH ...
THE STENCH, THE STENCH, THE STENCH!!
THIS COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE WORSE!!
STINKS LIKE HUMANS.
IT STINKS LIKE MEN.
EVEN WITH HER VISION OBSTRUCTED BY THAT MASK...
...SHE'S ABLE TO REWRITE "FORMULAS" TO THIS EXTENT!?
IMPRESSIVE.

THOSE ARE INCREDIBLE EYES YOU'VE GOT...
...*BEASTIA* VERONICA DE SADE!

... FOR MERE HUMANS TO USE CASUALLY.
MINE IS NOT A NAME...

!
DEAR LITTLE DOMI TRIED TO STOP ME...
...SO I'LL SHATTER YOU TO PIECES RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER!
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
OOPS.
FIRST, I'LL FREEZE YOU.
AND THEN... LET'S SEE.

VANITAS !!
IT WAS THAT LAST ATTACK. MY BODY WON'T. !
DAMN IT.
FU FU FU !
KYA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

THAT'S ENOUGH, VERONICA.

LORD RUTHVEN ...

ONE GRANTED THE NAME OF BEASTIA, "QUEEN'S FANG," SHOULD NOT USE HER POWER IN SUCH AN UNBECOMING MANNER.
...!
RUTHVEN...??
...?
RUTHVEN!
...
IT TOOK TIME TO PROCURE A SUBSTITUTE CARRIAGE.
YES. MY CARRIAGE WAS ATTACKED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS.
...YOU'VE ARRIVED VERY LATE.

EXPLAIN THIS SITUATION.
NOW
THERE'S NO MISTAKE WE SAW THE MARK ENGRAVED ON HIS ARM!
MILORD LORD RUTHVEN!
WHAT?
THAT HUMAN IS KIN TO THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!

THAT'S NOT...
HE USED THE POWER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS TO SPREAD THE CURSE OF THE BLUE MOON!!
SEVERAL CURSE-BEARERS APPEARED WITH THAT HUMAN.

RUTHVEN...??

YOU HEARD HIM. IS IT TRUE?
...WAS IT YOU WHO RETURNED THOSE INDIVIDUALS TO ASHES?
I'M THE ONE WHO KILLED THAT GIRL.
THAT'S RIGHT.

STOP IT... DON'T... TOUCH HIM!!
LISTEN.
HUH!?
HFF
I DON'T KNOW... WHO YOU ARE, BUT...!
WHAT
AND YOU PEOPLE BARGED IN AND INTERRUPTED! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
I WAS— TALKING TO HIM!

DON'T JUST HIJACK THE SITUATION!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
TRYING TO SHOVE THE BLAME ONTO HIM BECAUSE IT'S CONVENIENT IS JUST—
...
HUH?
BUT... THAT'S ...

HA HA HA HA!
I DID...
...THE EXACT SAME THING...
HEH!
I'D FLATTERED MYSELF THAT I WAS FAIRLY WELL-KNOWN, YOU SEE.
HA-HA-HA
AH, MY APOLOGIES!
AS YOU SAY, I WAS THE ONE WHOSE MANNERS WERE LACKING.
YOUR PARDON, BOY.
IT SEEMS THAT WAS CONCEITED OF ME
HEH HEH.

I AM RUTHVEN.
I SERVE HER MAJESTY AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE.

UNCLE!!

THE SENATE

LUCA?
UNCLE?

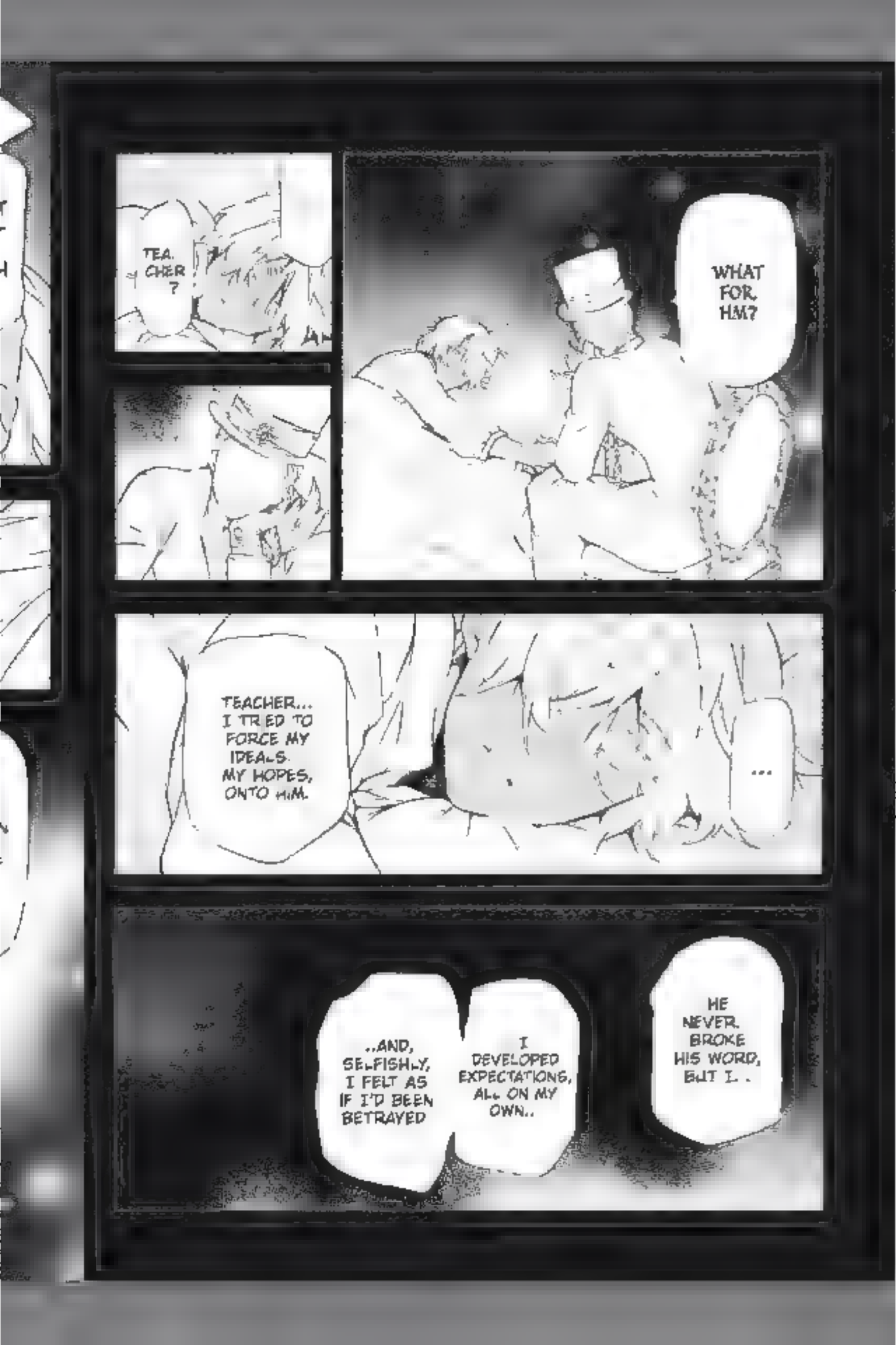
LUCIUS
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
YOU AS WELL, UNCLE! I WAS AFRAID SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED.

NOE!!
GOGA (WHAM!)
SUDA (STARE)
NOE... WHAT IS GOING ON HERE..... ?
DON'T
I'M ONLY MELTING THE ICE.
HAVE NO FEAR.

...
FLAMES
...
BLACK
...
HM.
UNCLE WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THEM?
I'LL TAKE THESE TWO UNDER MY PROTECTION.

...UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE VIEWED AS AN ATTACK ON MY PERSON.
!?
AS I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL AWARE...
SHOULD ANYONE ATTEMPT TO HARM MY "GUESTS"...

VANITAS.
I...
HAVE TO..
APOLO-GIZE
TO YOU...
APOLOGIZE?


TEA.
CHER
?
WHAT
FOR.
HM?
TEACHER...
I TRIED TO
FORCE MY
IDEALS.
MY HOPES,
ONTO HIM.
...
HE
NEVER.
BROKE
HIS WORD,
BUT I..
I
DEVELOPED
EXPECTATIONS,
ALL ON MY
OWN..
..AND,
SELFISHLY,
I FELT AS
IF I'D BEEN
BETRAYED

WELL?
SINCE HE WASN'T WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, WOULD YOU RATHER NOT BE AROUND HIM ANYMORE?
TEACHER.
I'M NOT EXPERI-ENCED ENOUGH
...
ENGAGE WITH THE *TALE* OF THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING *THE BOOK OF VANITAS*
MON CHATON WHEN I TOLD YOU TO DISCERN THE TRUE CHARACTER OF *THE BOOK OF VANITAS*.
. I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE BOOK WAS A THREAT TO VAMPIRES OR NOT.
HUH?

ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT, HOW WILL YOU DEFINE *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* FOR YOURSELF?
THAT ...
...IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.

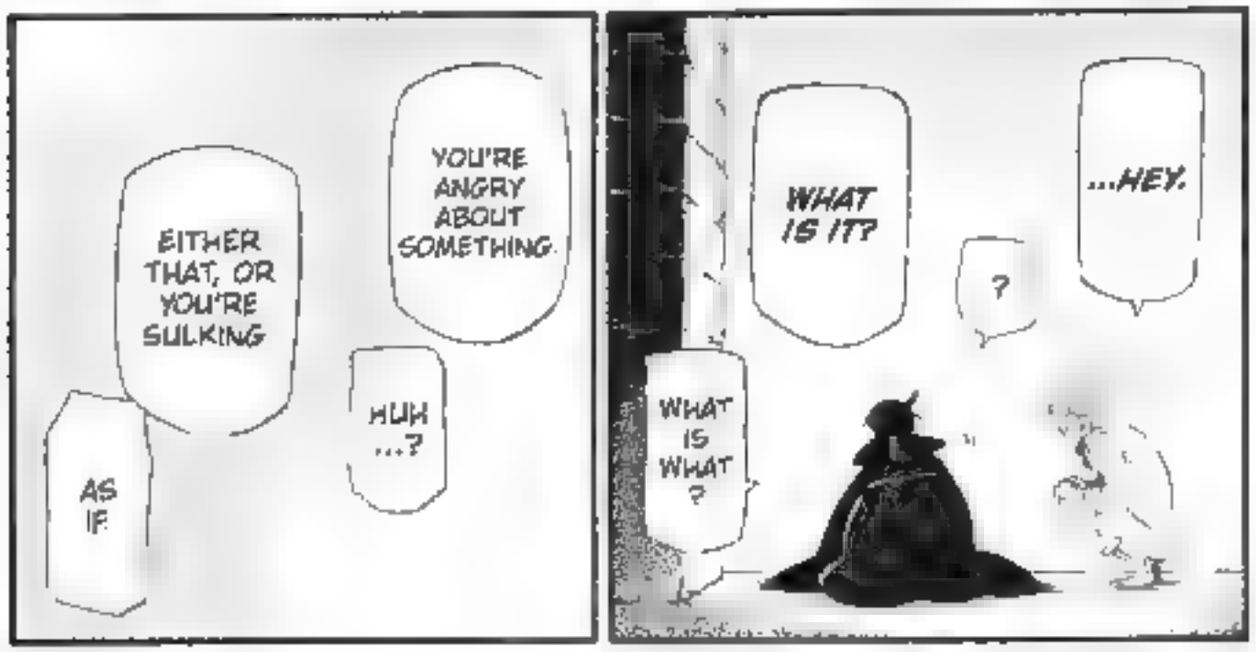
IT'S WARM.
I'M DEFINITELY IN ALTUS.
BUT
I CAN STILL SEE THE "COBWEBS" FAINTLY. ...THAT MEANS...

VANITAS.

YOU REALLY DO LIKE HIGH PLACES. DON'T YOU.

CAN I ASK WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
NOTHING INTERESTING
LORD RUTHVEN TOOK CHARGE AND DISPERSED THE CROWD.

THE OFFICIAL STORY IS THAT WE'RE RUTHVEN'S GUESTS.
THEN. THE ROOM I WAS IN THAT WAS HIM AS WELL?
YEAH.


YOU'RE ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING.
EITHER THAT, OR YOU'RE SULKING
AS IF.
HUH ...?
...HEY.
WHAT IS IT?
?
WHAT IS WHAT?

NO.
. YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, DON'T YOU?

WELL, I DO.
YOU SAID...
...THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS REVENGE. REMEMBER?
YES.
I... I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT BY T—
THAT WAS A LIE.

SO YOU FELL FOR IT, DID YOU?
IDIOT
I DIDN'T THINK THE VAMPIRES WOULD LISTEN TO ME UNLESS I SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...A LIE?
YOU'RE LYING.
NO, THAT'S A LIE.
WHAT YOU SAID THEN WAS A LIE?

I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY.
YOU LOOKED LIKE THAT.
WHEN I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID, IT MADE SENSE TO ME.
THAT, WILL BE MY REVENGE ON VANITAS!!!
WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT, I WILL SAVE YOU, WITHOUT FAIL.
AS IF YOU'D GIVEN UP ON SOMETHING.

SO YOU FELL FOR IT, DID YOU?
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AS IF YOU'D GIVEN UP ON SOMETHING.

...TRY TO SIZE ME UP WITH RIDICULOUS ASSUMPTIONS!
—DO NOT...
ENOUGH. I'M TIRED OF THIS.
I CAN'T DEAL WITH A SIMPLETON LIKE YOU ANYMORE.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

WHY DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY?
SO YOU DO THE SAME AND STAY AWAY FROM—
HUH?
I...
...DON'T LIKE YOU!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA HERE.
...YOU DON'T NEED TO—!
...I SAID...
...AND I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF HELPING YOU WITH ANYTHING.
THAT MEANS I DON'T PLAN TO OBEY YOUR ORDERS.

ゴオーン
GOOOM
BOOOONG
ゴオー
GOOM
ゴオ
GOOM
TCH!
I THOUGHT HE WAS ANGRY. .
...AND NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN HE'S CRANKY.

...
THIS
IS
FUN.

PRECISELY BECAUSE THAT'S SO...

THIS THING YOU'RE ATTEMPTING... I WANT TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END!
...I WANT TO UNDERSTAND.
SO..
EVEN IF YOU PUSH ME AWAY...

"AND, NO MATTER WHAT YOU WANT..."

"...I'LL DO AS I PLEASE."

...I'VE DECIDED I'M STAYING WITH YOU...

...VANITAS.

KEH
KEH
HEH!

DO AS YOU LIKE.
EVEN NOW, I VIVIDLY REMEMBER ...
THE COLOR OF THE RISING SUN I SAW THEN.
AND...

...ALL TOO EASILY, MEMORIES OF THE BEGINNING ...
...SUMMON MEMORIES OF THE END.
THE THINGS THAT SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS.
THE PEOPLE I COULDN'T PROTECT.

THE REGRETS OF THAT DAY...
...WHEN I DIDN'T GRAB YOUR HAND—
...
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT.

Mémoire 11
Point of Departure
DEUX OMBRES

TO BE CONTINUED...